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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Antitrust penalty

It is interesting to me that after a very strong case in the court system and in reality a very good review by the appellate court that the government would go for such a weak penalty. Especially one that is worded in ways that sound like Microsoft actually wrote the document.

Has Microsoft demonstrated that they will abide by consent decrees in the past? No. In fact their behavior in the development and release of Windows XP has demonstrated that they have no intent of behaving in a way that allows for competition.

It is completely unreasonable to assert that it is good for the economy for the government to go lightly on Microsoft. The entire basis for antitrust legislation is that it is better for the economy for there to be competition. This proposed "penalty" will not help competition return to the PC desktop. It will, in reality, enable Microsoft to continue with their monopoly and will also allow them to continue the anti-competitive practices well into the future.

Remember: you WON the trial. Please don't let Microsoft off the hook for their abominable behavior. It most likely is not in the best interest of the country for you to come to any kind of agreement with them--it should be a court imposed sentence. This penalty is like a terrorist negotiating his own sentence.

Regards,
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